

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION)

REF: STATE 227443

1. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF INQUIRY, MEMBER OF STAFF OF SUBJECT PRIVATE FOUNDATION (LEGALLY A REGISTERED ASSOCIATION -- "EINGETRAGENER VEREIN" -- SINCE 1925), CONFIRMED INFORMATION IN RECENT ARTICLE CONCERNING THIS FOUNDATION TO EFFECT THAT 88 PERCENT OF THE FINANCING OF THE FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITIES (1973 BUDGET WAS REPORTED AS DM 57.4 MILLION) COMES FROM THE FEDERAL, LAENDER OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THE REMAINDER IS FROM VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM VARIOUS NON-GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES. RE QUESTION IN PARA 2(B) OF REFTTEL, HE STATED THAT FUNDS FOR PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE WOULD BE FROM THOSE GRANTED TO FOUNDATION BY GOVERNMENT SOURCES.

2. IN ADDITION TO FOUNDATIONS AS THE US KNOWS THEM (I.E. WITH LARGE, PRIVATELY DONATED FUNDS OR ENDOWMENTS), THERE ARE IN FRG PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES WHICH FOR MOST PART DEPEND ON ANNUAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS, OFTEN FROM THE FEDERAL OR LAENDER GOVERNMENTS.

3. FOUNDATION REP EMPHASIZED THAT GRANTS FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES ARE RECEIVED FOR GENERAL PROGRAMS OF EBERT FOUNDATION. HOWEVER, THE FOUNDATION DECIDES

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FREELY (I.E., NOT SUBJECT TO ANY GOVERNMENT INSTRUC-

TIONS) ON THE FUNDING OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES WITHIN THOSE GENERAL PROGRAMS, SUCH AS PLANNED US PARLIAMENTARY VISIT. FINANCING OF OTHER GERMAN FOUNDATIONS IS SIMILARLY WITHOUT STRINGS. RECENT DELEGATION FROM CANADA, HANDLED BY EBERT FOUNDATION, INCLUDED CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS. FOUNDATION REP STATED THAT HIS FOUNDATION PLANS TO EXPAND AND INTENSIFY PROGRAM OF US/FRG PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES AND CONTACTS; HE STRESSED CONSEQUENT IMPORTANCE THAT DIFFERENCE IN FOUNDATION FINANCING IN US AND FRG BE UNDERSTOOD, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT INTERPRETATION OF PROVISIONS OF US LAW REFERRED TO WOULD NOT DETRIMENTALLY AFFECT PLANNED INTENSIFICATION OF US/FRG PARLIAMENTARY CONTACTS.

4. FOUNDATION REP SAID THAT LABOR ATTACHE AT FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, DR. VOSS, WAS FORMER EMPLOYEE OF SUBJECT FOUNDATION AND WELL ACQUAINTED WITH ITS FINANCING AND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. HE SUGGESTED THAT VOSS BE INVOLVED IN DEPARTMENT EFFORTS WITH FRG EMBASSY TO EXAMINE THIS QUESTION FURTHER.
HILLENBRAND

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